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NEWS RELEASE

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<http://www.umt.edu/backroads>.

'BACKROADS OF MONTANA' CRISSCROSSES STATE IN LATEST EPISODE

MISSOULA —

The next episode of MontanaPBS' award-winning "Backroads of Montana" program features a long-haul postal worker, a veteran fire-spotter, metal animals on a hillside, an unusual labyrinth and ancient American Indian art.

"Backroads of Montana: Roundup to Nine Mile" premieres at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 12, on KUFM-TV Channel 11 in Missoula, KUSM-TV Channel 9 in Bozeman and AT&T Cable across the state. The program repeats at 8:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, and 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 19.

This episode includes a profile of Bob Beadle of Roundup, a contract driver for the U.S. Postal Service, who has one of the longest mail routes in the country. Viewers also meet Virginia Vincent, a veteran lookout who has manned the Stark Mountain Lookout near the Nine Mile area, west of Missoula, for nearly 30 years.

The next stop is a hilltop outside Glasgow that's been invaded by metal animals. Buck Samuelson created the unique exhibit, which overlooks the eastern Hi-Line town. Viewers then get lost south of Missoula near Victor, where Patty and Helmut Meyer spent 18 months

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transforming part of their land into a labyrinth. When the “Backroads” crew stopped by – the eve of the summer solstice – the labyrinth was a popular place, with candles burning, harpists playing and a bonfire burning.

Finally, viewers visit the tiny town of Forest Grove, where resident Macie Lundin takes them on a tour of a sandstone canyon that displays hundreds of American Indian pictographs and petroglyphs.

Throughout the program, host William Marcus shows off the restoration work on the State Capitol in Helena.

“Montana can be a spiritual place,” Marcus said. “I believe we capture some of that spirituality with our stories on the Native American drawings, the labyrinth and the metal animals, which were inspired by prayer.”

“Backroads” highlights interesting people, places and events from around the Treasure State. Marcus, Gus Chambers, John Twiggs and Ray Ekness produce the program for UM’s Broadcast Media Center and MontanaPBS station KUFM-TV. The Greater Montana Foundation, Travel Montana and UM funds the programs, which is seen around the world as part of the PBS Heartland USA international broadcasts.

MontanaPBS is a service of UM and Montana State University in Bozeman.

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